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PAPERS

IN

MANUFACTURES.

MANUFACTURES.

A Bounty of Twenty-five Guineas was this Session voted to Mr. Thomas Clulow, No. 31, Old Cock-Lane, Shoreditch, for improving Looms in general, and for his invention of a Method of weaving Purses, Pockets, and Sacks.

A Model of this improved Loom, *and some* Purses *and* Pockets *wove upon this Plan, are reserved in the Society's Repository, for the inspection of the Public. An Engraving and Description of the* Loom *are annexed.*

SIR,

I HAVE made a small loom, agreeably to the orders of the Society, and hope it will answer their expectations. I have also brought models of sacks, purses, pockets, and wallets, wove in the loom, to show what it is capable of doing.

The articles wove in this way will be less liable to lose their contents than those whose seams are sowed with the needle, and will wear longer, and be less liable to want repairs.

I have also made improvements in the manner of setting up looms in general, which I have explained in my present model; so that this loom not only shows a new invention in weaving, but also a method of setting up looms of all kinds, so as to do their work better than in the common way. Any reward which the Society may think proper to afford me, will be thankfully accepted, and gratefully acknowledged, by,

Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
Thomas Clulow.

Shoreditch,
March 16, 1802.

Mr. Charles Taylor.

AN account of Mr. Clulow's plan for improving looms in general, particularly the Broad Silk Weavers Loom. (*See Plate* VII.)

An oblong frame A is laid down horizontally, and secured at the four corners with triangular braces, BBBB, to keep the frame properly square.

Four posts, CCCC, are fixed upright in mortice holes on the above frame. The front posts are supported both back and front with diagonal timbers, DDDD, to keep the breast roll E from giving way in the least by the heavy stroke of the batten FF on the quarter or work: the two hinder posts, GG, are held firm by two diagonal supports, HH, within the loom, to bear against the counter weights I I, and the great weight V, hanging on the work K, and the force of the batten F.

In a loom constructed on this plan, both strong and slight works may be made firm and good, without the loom having any shorings or supports; the advantages arising from which are the following, viz.

Poor indigent weavers being obliged to live in low-rented houses, the floors and party walls of the rooms where they weave are bad and weak, so that the common looms cannot be placed firm, and a man is perplexed to set up his loom in requisite order. If the loom is not set up firm, and secured from giving way in the working of it, no work can be made strong and good. One great disadvantage is done away by the bottom frame I use for fixing my loom upon, which can be placed by any common workman; whereas to set a loom up in the old method, requires great exactness and judgment, to prevent the work from being damaged.

If, in the common way, a loom is not properly put in the square, and firmly shored, which it is difficult to do, the silk chafes and cuts, the mind of the workman is harassed for want of knowing the real cause of it, or having sufficient knowledge to correct it; therefore the work is spoiled for want of a trifling alteration in the loom, and the blame frequently laid upon the silk when the error lies wholly in the loom.

If a common loom is put in its proper square, and has not a firm shoring or support, the work or cloth has not the firmness which it ought to have, and which it will have in my method. It frequently happens that the shorings or supports are too long and slender, or the places weak which they are fixed against, which causes a trembling motion in the loom; and if the loom shakes only the 100th part of an inch (which is not more on a moderate calculation than the breadth of each thread shot into the work), it will take out that stifness there ought to be in the work; for if the loom does not stand firm against the stroke of the batten, the work will lie hollow, be flimsey, and, though it takes as much silk as good work, it does not look well, nor will sell for so much money: the poor weaver is therefore turned out of employment, not knowing where the error lies; and the employer suffers in his property.

If the shores to the common looms, after being placed, either fall by accident or through the continual shaking of the loom whilst working, which circumstances will sometimes happen in the middle of a piece of work being done, it is with great difficulty that the loom can then be put in square, or supported as it ought to be; therefore it occasions the work to be spoiled.

Besides these, other difficulties frequently occur to a weaver where the loom is not properly fixed, squared, and shored, which those persons conversant in weaving well know. I shall mention one material instance, where, if the loom is originally well set up in the common way, it may be liable to great disadvantage, viz. its situation in regard to light, which is a main point, as in that case it cannot be moved without great risk, if any work is in it; whereas, if the loom is made according *to my model*, the weaver may slide it to any exactness that is requisite, as a few inches moving will permit the light to fall on the work properly without injury to the work, as my loom is firm and squared, without requiring the aid of any shores.

What I have said relative to this matter, will, I hope, give a satisfactory elucidation of my plan.

THOMAS CLULOW.

WE have examined this Model, and conceive it is a useful improvement.

Lea and Wilson, No. 26, Old Jewry.

Rennington, Wilson, and Co. Milk-street.

Gearing and Taylor, King-street, Cheapside.

Anthony Longuet, No. 23, Wood-street, Spital-fields.

Cotes, Titford, and Brookes, Union-street, Bishopsgate-street.

Hudswell, Thorp and Gardner, No. 30, Spital-square.

John Dubois and Sons, No. 20, Church-street, Spital-fields.

James Dickson and John Honyman, No. 7, Church-street, Spital-fields.

March 9, 1802.

Description

Description of the Method of weaving Sacks, &c. in the Loom above mentioned. (See Plate VII.)

L	The seat of the loom.
M	The treadles, six in number, to raise the harness.
N	The counter-meshes to raise the tumblers O, moveable on a pin a little beyond their centre, and which act on the harness P, by raising such parts thereof as they are attached to at their extremities.
Q	The work in the loom.
R	The reed which strikes the shoot or weft close up.
S	The back beam on which the warp or thread is wound.
T T	The rods to preserve the crossing of the threads.
V	The main weight suspended by a lever U, from a bar W near

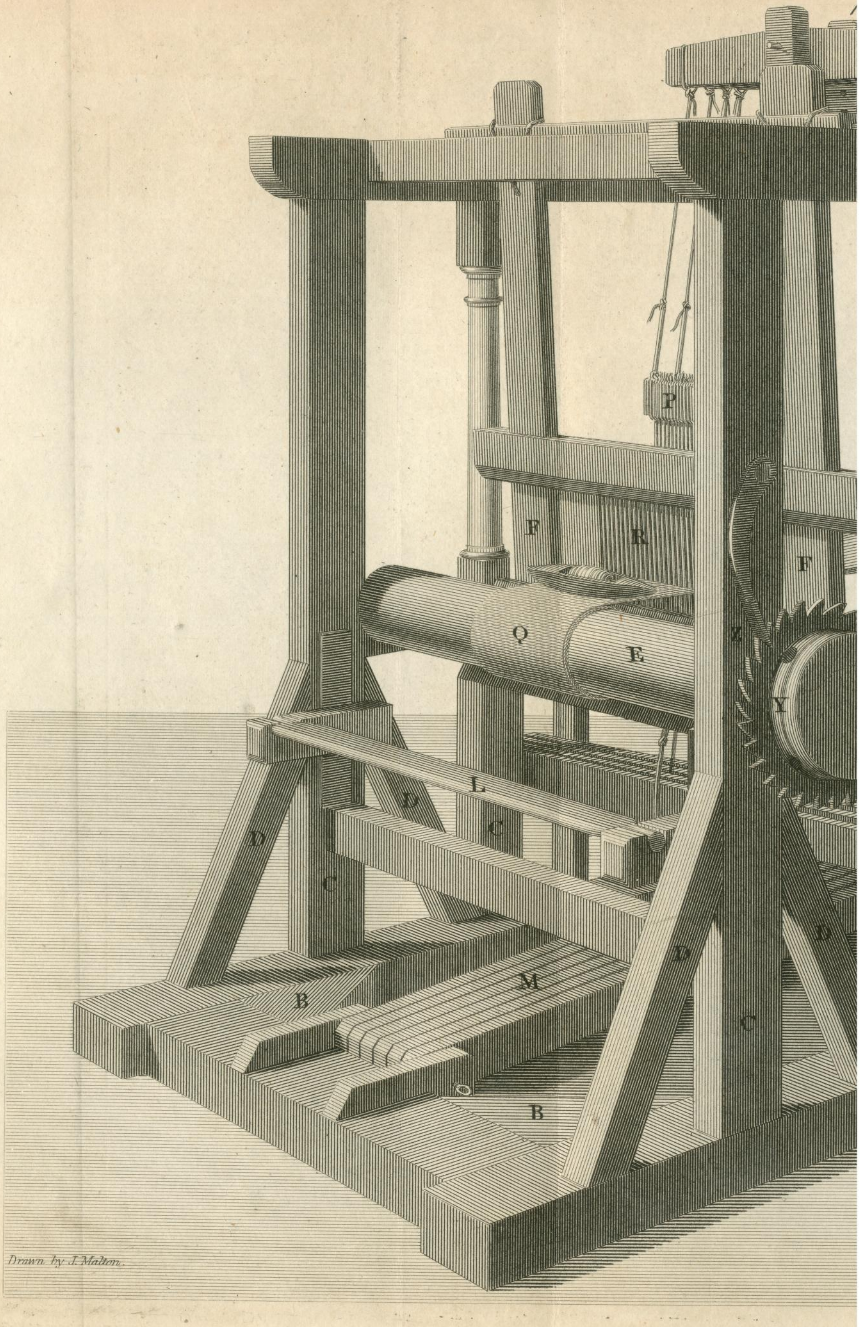
its centre; the other end of the lever is fastened by a cord to the bottom frame of the loom at X.

Y	The rack on the working beam.
Z	The catch to hold the teeth of the rack.

To weave a sack, press down the second treadle on the right-hand side, and throw one shoot with the shuttle; then press down the second treadle on the left-hand side, and throw another shoot; then proceed in the same manner with the third on the right, and the third on the left, till a sufficient quantity is made; then work the two outside treadles and two shoots.

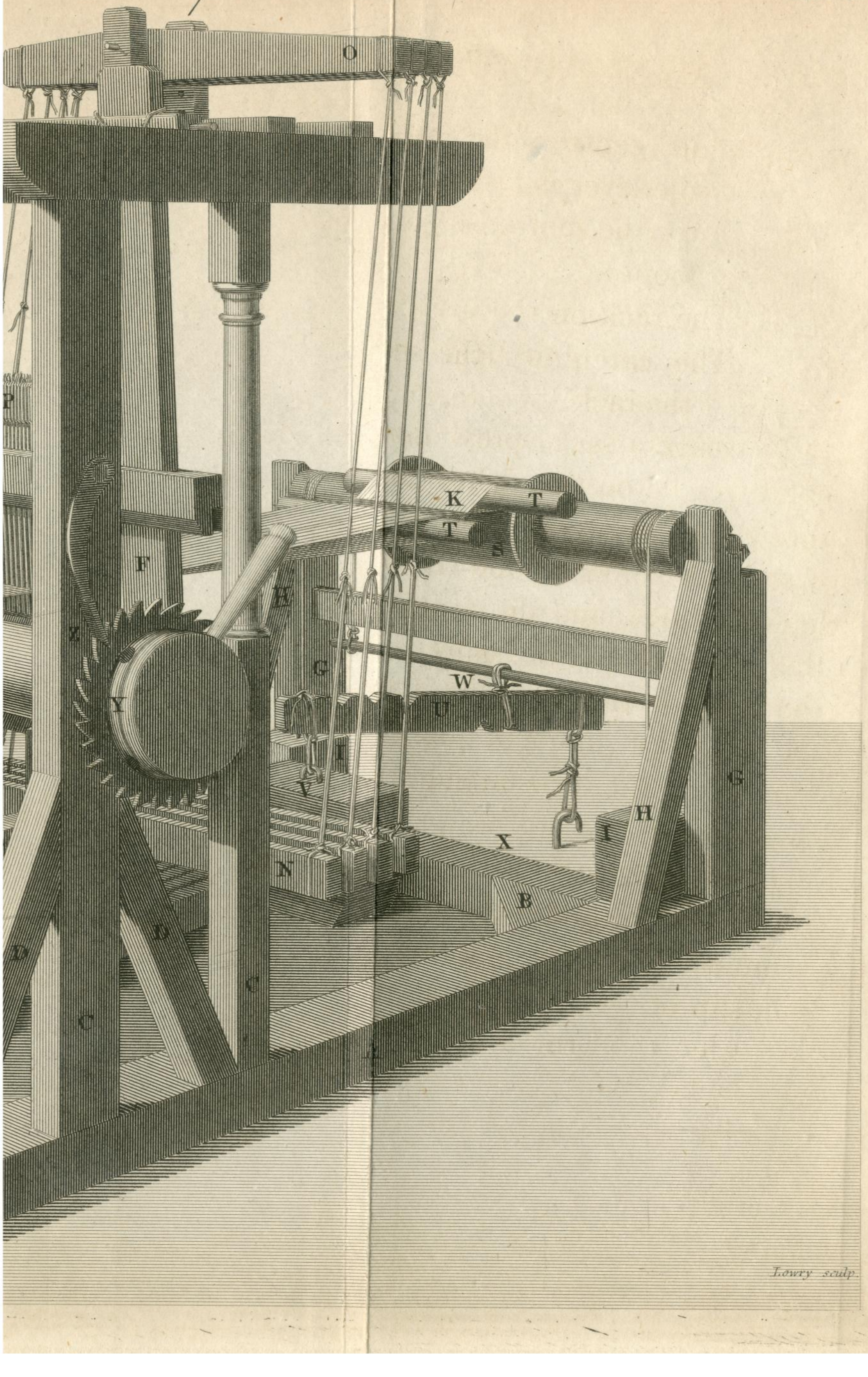
In weaving sacks, it is necessary between the finishing of one sack and the commencement of another, to pass a thin slip of wood through the threads, in order to form a space between the two sacks.

Mr. Thomas Clulow's im



Drawn by J. Malton.

ulon's improved Loom. Pl. VII.



Lowry sculp.